

Message Text

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10

ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8598

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, CA, VE

SUBJ: ORIT MEETING IN VENEZUELA

1. CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS (CLC) INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR JOHN HARKER BRIEFED LABATT ON LAST WEEK'S
MEETING IN CARACAS ON RESTRUCTURING OF ICFTU'S LATIN
AMERICAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION-ORIT. ACCORDING TO HARKER
REPRESENTATIVES FROM ICFTU, MEXICO, VENEZUELA, CANADA
AND U.S. (MCCLELLAN AND BOGGS) AGREED SPECIAL ORIT
CONGRESS NOW RESCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 10-14 SHOULD CONCERN
ITSELF MAINLY WITH RESTATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND
SUBSEQUENT IMPLEMENTATION. CONSENSUS REACHED ON
STRENGTHENING ROLE OF AFFILIATED NATIONAL CENTERS.
SUCH DECENTRALIZATION WOULD, OF COURSE, REDUCE AUTHORITY
AND INFLUENCE OF ORIT. IN ADDITION TO GREATER AUTONOMY
FOR NATIONAL AFFILIATES CLC FACES LARGER ROLE
FOR ICFTU IN LATIN AMERICA, INCLUDING VOICE IN DISTRIBUTION
AND UTILIZATION OF FUNDS. SUCH RESTRUCTURING WOULD
BE PREREQUISITE FOR ARGENTINIAN CGT TO REJOIN HEMISPHERIC
ORGANIZATION IN CLC'S VIEW. APPARENTLY VENEZUELAN CTV
WILL PROPOSE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUB-REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
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AT AUGUST CONGRESS.

2. HARKER CONJECTURED THAT AFL-CIO MIGHT NOT BE TOO PLEASED WITH GREATER DIRECT ICFTU ROLE IN LATIN AMERICA. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE QUESTIONED FINANCIAL ABILITY OF RESTRUCTURED ORIT TO GET ALONG WITHOUT AFL-CIO'S GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS IF THIS WERE TO COME TO PASS.

3. COMMENT: CLC FERVENTLY HOPES THAT AFL-CIO AGREES TO GREATER ICFTU INVOLVEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND AIFLD CONTINUES ITS WORK IN THE REGION. IF, HOWEVER, A MODUS VIVENDI CANNOT BE ACHIEVED CLC MIGHT SERIOUSLY CONSIDER OPTING OUT OF HEMISPHERIC ORGANIZATION. LABATT URGED GREATER CLC/AFL-CIO CONSULTATION ON LATIN AMERICA THAN HAS UNFORTUNATELY BEEN CASE IN PAST. JOHNSON

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